Donald Blakeley





Rank: - Private

Number: - 4691812

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, 1/4th Bn.

Died: - Died of Wounds 25 June 1944 age 23.

Cemetery: - Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France VIII. E. 16.

Batley News, 29 Jul 1944 (photo)

Donald was born in 1920 the son of Harry and Lottie Blakeley nee Butcher who had married 15 June 1915 at St. Thomas Church, Purston cum South Featherstone. Harry was born in 1915, Jack 1917, Donald, William 1922

Donald attended Warwick Road School and worshipped at Batley Parish Church and worked at Messrs. John S. Driver Ltd., Commercial Street, Batley.

Donald joined the Forces the day broke out and went out with some of the advanced troops. He saw service in Norway and had been in Iceland for $2^{1/2}$ years. He married Florence Harwood of Queen Street, Batley in March 1944. Their son was born in late 1944.Florence married Edward Bullock in 1948.

Operation Overlord was the codename for the Battle of Normandy, the Allied operation that launched the successful invasion of German-occupied Western Europe during World War II. The operation was launched on 6 June 1944 with the Normandy landings. A 1,200-plane airborne assault preceded an amphibious assault involving more than 5,000 vessels. The battle continued until the 30 August 1944.

Donald was injured and died of his wounds on 25 June 1944.

He was awarded 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

Donald is remembered with Honour at The British Normandy Memorial, column 92; and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group

PTE. DONALD BLAKELEY

KILLED IN NORMANDY

Mrs. Florence Blakeley, 19, Queen Street, Batley, has received official information that her husband, Pte. Donald Blakeley (23) was killed in Normandy on June 25th. Pte. Blakeley joined the Army the day war broke out and went out with some of the advanced troops. He had seen service in Norway and had been in Iceland 2½ years. Educated at Warwick Road Council School, he attended Batley Parish Church and worked at Messrs. John S. Driver, Ltd., Commercial Street, Batley. Pte. Blakeley was married only in March this year.



Donald Blakeley.

He has three brothers serving. They are Harry Blakeley (Airborne Division), Jack Blakeley (at present in Normandy) and Billy Blakeley (who is home on leave after being in an English hospital for treatment for wounds received a year ago in Italy). They are all the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Blakeley, 42, Queen Street, Batley.

Batley News, 29 Jul 1944 (photo)